

SPAIN

UNFINISHED JUSTICE: UNDERSTANDING STRUCTURAL ANTIGYPSYISM

JEKHIPE RESEARCH FINDINGS 2025

Based on research conducted in
Spain under the JEKHIPE Project

Roma Population & Historical Context

Spain has **one of the oldest Roma communities in Europe**, with antigypsyism rooted in centuries of **persecution** and **forced assimilation**. Approximately 725,000 to 1,000,000 Roma people live in Italy, around 1.5–2% of the total population.

Key historical milestones:

- **1499**: First anti-Roma legislation (Pragmática of the Catholic Monarchs)
- **1749**: The Gran Redada (Great Raid) led to mass arrests and persecution of Roma
- **1939–1975**: Roma communities persecuted under Franco's dictatorship
- **2022**: Democratic Memory Law recognizes historical persecution of Roma

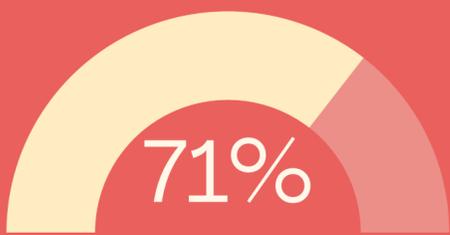
Rooted in over 500 years of institutional discrimination, antigypsyism continues to drive systemic inequality in modern-day Spain.



*Data from the EU
Fundamental Rights
Agency and Fundación
Secretariado Gitano

Education Inequality

Educational exclusion remains one of the strongest structural barriers affecting Roma communities.



of young Roma leave school early

More than



of young Roma leave school early

Early school leaving among Roma youth is **one of the highest rates in Europe** and significantly limits employment opportunities and social mobility.

Policy Framework

Spain has introduced several national policies addressing Roma inclusion.

- **National Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma 2021–2030**
- **State Pact against Antigypsyism (2023)** with 158 policy proposals
- **Democratic Memory Law (2022)** recognizing historical persecution
- **Criminal Code reform (2022)** including antigypsyism as a hate-crime motive

SPAIN

UNFINISHED JUSTICE: UNDERSTANDING STRUCTURAL ANTIGYPSYISM

JEKHIPE RESEARCH FINDINGS 2025

Based on research conducted in
Spain under the JEKHIPE Project

Policy Impact and Implementation

Despite policy progress, implementation remains weak.

- Average policy effectiveness rating: **3 / 10**
- **Lack of political will** identified as the main obstacle
- **Insufficient funding** for Roma inclusion programs

Many stakeholders consider
current policies **fragmented**
and **largely symbolic**.

Housing and Spatial Segregation

Housing discrimination remains a major structural issue.

- Roma communities frequently experience **segregated or peripheral housing**
- Many families live in **substandard housing conditions**
- Urban planning policies often reinforce **spatial segregation**

Main Structural Challenges



Persistent prejudice and
social discrimination



Lack of political will



Weak institutional
cooperation

Areas Most Affected by Antigypsyism

88.9%

Media representation
and stereotypes

77.8%

Employment
discrimination

77.8%

Housing discrimination

33.3%

Treatment by police and
the justice system

22.2%

Access to education

Why This Matters

Addressing antigypsyism in Spain
requires structural reforms.

Key priorities include:

- **integrating Roma history into school curricula**
- **improving housing and urban inclusion policies**
- **strengthening monitoring of discrimination and hate crimes**
- **increasing funding for Roma-led initiatives**
- **ensuring Roma participation in policymaking**